

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) In a steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

an upper bracket fixed to a rear side portion of a vehicle body and including a pair of opposed flat plate portions formed with first holes opposed each other and separated from each other;

a lower bracket fixed to a front side portion of the vehicle body and including a pair of opposed flat plate portions formed with second holes opposed each other and separated from each other;

a steering column rotatably supporting a steering shaft;

a first support member held between said opposed flat plate portions of said upper bracket, formed with a first support hole opposing the first hole and supporting said steering column;

a second support member held between said opposed flat plate portions of said lower bracket, formed with a second

support hole opposing the second hole and supporting said steering column;

a first support mechanism for supporting said steering column on said upper bracket via the first hole of said upper bracket and via the first support hole of said first support member; and

a second support mechanism for supporting said steering column on said lower bracket via the second hole of said lower bracket and via the second support hole of said second support member,

an improvement characterized in that said steering column is integrally formed with said first support member and said second support member,

said first support member is integrally formed with a first swelling portion having a pair of side portions that respectively press-abut on said pair of opposed flat plate portions of said upper bracket, and

said second support member is integrally formed with a second swelling portion having a pair of side portions that respectively press-abut on said pair of opposed flat plate portions of said lower bracket.

2. (Original) In a steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

an upper bracket fixed to a rear side portion of a vehicle body and including a pair of opposed flat plate portions formed with first holes opposing each other and separated from each other;

a lower bracket fixed to a front side portion of the vehicle body and including a pair of opposed flat plate portions formed with second holes opposing each other and separated from each other;

a steering column rotatably supporting a steering shaft;

a first support member held between said opposed flat plate portions of said upper bracket, formed with a first support hole opposing to the first hole and supporting said steering column;

a second support member held between said opposed flat plate portions of said lower bracket, formed with a second support hole opposing the second hole and supporting said steering column;

a third support member for supporting a harness member between said first support member and said second support member;

a first support mechanism for supporting said steering column on said upper bracket via the first hole of said upper bracket and via the first support hole of said lower

bracket; and

a second support mechanism for supporting said steering column on said lower bracket via the second hole of said lower bracket and via the second support hole of said second support member,

an improvement characterized in that said steering column is integrally formed with at least two said support members among said first support member, said second support member and said third support member,

said first support member is integrally formed with a first swelling portion having a pair of side portions that respectively press-abut on said pair of opposed flat plate portions of said upper bracket,

said second support member is integrally formed with a swelling portion having a pair of side portions supported respectively via a hinge device on said pair of opposed flat plate portions of said lower bracket, and

said third support member is integrally formed with a third swelling portion having a third support hole for fixing a support member that supports said harness member.

3. (Original) A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said third support member is formed on said first swelling portion, formed extending

toward a front side of a vehicle body, of said first support member.

4. (Currently Amended) A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein a protruded portion protruding inward along the whole of the first support hole is formed along a peripheral edge of said first support hole.

5. (Original) A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the first hole of said upper bracket is an elongate hole for adjusting a tilt position, said second support mechanism is a hinge mechanism for rotatably supporting said steering column, and said first support mechanism holds and fixes said first support member between said pair of opposed flat plate portions of said upper bracket, or releases said first support member to enable said steering column to move.

6. (Original) A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein both of the first support hole of said first support member and the second support hole of said second support member are elongate holes for adjusting a telescopic position of said steering column.

7. (Original) In a steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a steering column for rotatably supporting a steering shaft; and

a vehicle-body-rear-sided bracket and a vehicle-body-front-sided bracket, fixed to a vehicle-body-sided strengthening member, for supporting said steering column,

an improvement characterized in that said steering column is integrally formed with a plurality of swelling portions and is supported on said vehicle-body-rear-sided bracket and/or said vehicle-body-front-sided bracket via said swelling portions.

8. (Original) A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 7, wherein a harness member supporting member is attached via one of said swelling portions.

9. (New) A steering apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 2, wherein a protruded portion protruding inward along the whole of the first support hole is formed along a peripheral edge of said first support hole.